IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 13-15, 24, 29, and 32-35, without prejudice or disclaimer, and cancel claim 5, without disclaimer. A complete list of the claims of this application follows.

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Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A device for locking ~~a control pedal and control pedal shaft~~ a brake or clutch pedal and a brake or clutch pedal shaft of a vehicle, said device comprising:

a base member for a placement on ~~the~~ a floorboard of the vehicle beneath ~~a~~ the ~~control pedal and control pedal shaft~~ brake or clutch pedal and the brake or clutch pedal shaft;

a U-shaped housing extending downward and having a first arm attached to said base and having a second shorter arm defining a gap for receipt of the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft, said gap between said first and second arms defining a slot for receiving the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft and permitting full extension of the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft upward through said slot; and

a locking mechanism associated with said first arm for locking an underside of the brake or clutch pedal shaft within said slot such that the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft cannot be depressed.

Claim 2 (Original): The device of claim 1 wherein said locking mechanism is activated by a key.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1 wherein said brake or clutch pedal is a brake pedal.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1 wherein said ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal is a ~~brake~~ clutch pedal.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Previously Amended): A device for locking a brake or clutch pedal and a brake or clutch pedal shaft of a vehicle, said device comprising:

a base member for a placement on a floorboard of the vehicle beneath ~~a~~ the brake or clutch pedal and the brake or clutch pedal shaft;

a metallic U-shaped housing extending downward and having a first arm attached to said base and having a second shorter arm defining an opening for receiving the brake or clutch pedal shaft, said opening between said first and second arms defining a slot for receiving the brake or clutch pedal shaft and permitting full extension of the brake or clutch pedal shaft both upward and downward through

said slot, said first arm having a cylindrical opening therethrough;

a rod extending through said cylindrical opening and being slidable therein, said rod having a pin which catches an underside of the brake or clutch pedal shaft within said slot and pulls the brake or clutch pedal shaft upward in a decompressed position; and

a locking mechanism for locking said rod and pin with respect to said housing such that the brake or clutch pedal cannot be depressed.

Claim 7 (Original): The device of claim 6 wherein said locking mechanism is activated by a key.

Claim 8 (Original): The device of claim 7 wherein said locking mechanism is activated by a combination.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A device for locking a ~~control pedal and control pedal shaft~~ brake or clutch pedal and a brake or clutch pedal shaft of a vehicle, said device comprising:

a base member having studs for a placement on a floorboard of the vehicle beneath the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal and ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft;

B1 a U-shaped housing extending downward and having a first arm attached to said base and having a second shorter arm defining an opening for receiving the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft, said opening between said first and second arms defining a slot for receiving the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft and permitting full extension of the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft both upward and downward through said slot, said first arm having a cylindrical opening extending therethrough;

a serrated rod extending through said cylindrical opening and being slidable therein, said rod having a pin at a first end for catching an underside of the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft within said slot and a handle at a second end for pulling the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft upward in a decompressed position; and

a locking mechanism adapted to lock said serrated rod and pin with respect to said housing such that the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal cannot be depressed.

Claim 10 (Previously Amended): The device of claim 9 further comprising extension means for facilitating the compression of said device by the foot of an operator against the floorboard of the vehicle.

Claim 11 (Previously Amended): The device of claim 9 further comprising studs for securing said base against the floorboard of the vehicle.

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Claim 12 (Original): The device of claim 9 wherein said base is triangular in shape.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A device for locking a ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal and ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft of a vehicle, said device comprising:

a base member for a placement on ~~the~~ a floorboard of ~~a~~ the vehicle beneath ~~a~~ the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal and ~~control~~ the brake or clutch pedal shaft;

a U-shaped housing extending downward and having a first arm attached to said base and having a second shorter arm defining an opening for receiving the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft, said opening between said first and second arms defining a slot for receiving the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft and permitting full extension of the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft both upward and downward through said slot, said first arm having a cylindrical opening extending therethrough, said base and said second shorter arm further having matable beveled surfaces to facilitate easier positioning of the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal in said opening;

a serrated rod extending through said cylindrical opening and being slidable therein, said rod having a pin at a first end for catching an underside of the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft within said slot and a handle at a second end for pulling

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the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft upward in a decompressed position; and

a key activated locking mechanism adapted to lock said serrated rod and pin with respect to said housing such that the that the ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal cannot be depressed.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A device for locking a ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal of a vehicle, the brake or clutch pedal being supported by a pedal shaft, the device comprising

a base, including a first elongated member and a second elongated member, the second elongated member being secured to and extending outwardly from a lateral side of the first elongated member at a predetermined angle, the base being adapted for placement on a floor of the vehicle beneath the brake or clutch pedal and the pedal shaft,

a housing extending from one of the first and second elongated members;

a rod slidably disposed on said housing, said rod having a first end which engages the underside of said ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft and a second end for pulling the rod and the pedal shaft upward in a decompressed position; and

a locking mechanism positioned on the housing which locks the rod with respect to the housing to retain the pedal shaft in the decompressed position such that the pedal cannot be operably depressed.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The device as recited in claim 14 wherein the predetermined angle is ninety (90°) degrees.

Claim 16 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 14 wherein the second member is secured to the lateral side of the first member, approximately midway along the length of the first member.

Claim 17 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 14 wherein the second leg is secured to the first elongated member at a location such that the slot is aligned with the second elongated member.

Claim 18 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 14 wherein the first elongated member includes an upper surface to which the second leg is secured and an opposite lower surface, the lower surface including at least one outwardly extending member to facilitate retention of the base on the vehicle floor.

Claim 19 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 18 wherein the outwardly extending member comprises a cleat.

Claim 20 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 18 wherein the outwardly extending member comprises a stud.

Claim 21 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 18 wherein the first elongated member includes a first cleat on the lower surface proximate to a first end thereof and second cleat on the lower surface proximate to a second end thereof.

Claim 22 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 21 wherein the second elongated member includes an upper surface and a lower surface, the lower surface of the second elongated member including a stud thereon.

Claim 23 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 22 wherein the stud is located on the lower surface of the second elongated member proximate to a distal end thereof.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A device for locking a ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal of a vehicle, the brake or clutch pedal being supported by a pedal shaft, the device comprising:

a base for placement on the floor of a vehicle beneath the brake or clutch

pedal and the pedal shaft, the base having a lower surface for engaging the vehicle floor, the lower surface including at least one outwardly extending member to facilitate retention of the base on the vehicle floor;

a housing extending from the base;

a rod slidably disposed on said housing, said rod having a first end which engages the underside of said ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft and a second end for pulling the rod and the pedal shaft upward in a decompressed position; and

a locking mechanism positioned on the housing which locks the rod with respect to the housing to retain the pedal shaft in the decompressed position such that the pedal cannot be ~~operable~~ operably depressed.

Claim 25 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 24 wherein the outwardly extending member comprises a cleat.

Claim 26 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 24 wherein the outwardly extending member comprises a stud.

Claim 27 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 24 wherein the base includes first and second ends and first and second lateral sides, the lower surface of the base including a first cleat proximate to the first lateral side near the

first end, a second cleat proximate to the first lateral side near a second end and a stud proximate to the second lateral side.

Claim 28 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 27 wherein the stud is located midway between the first and second ends of the base.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A device for locking a ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal of a vehicle the brake or clutch pedal being, supported by a pedal shaft, the device comprising

a base for placement on a floor of the vehicle beneath the brake or clutch pedal and the

pedal shaft;

a housing extending from the base and including a member for enabling a user to press the device toward the vehicle floor to facilitate installation of the device; and

a rod slidably disposed on said housing, said rod having a first end which engages the underside of said ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal shaft and a second end for pulling the rod and the pedal shaft upward in a decompressed position, and

a locking mechanism positioned on the housing which locks the rod with respect to the housing to retain the pedal shaft in the decompressed position such

that the brake or clutch pedal cannot be operably depressed.

Claim 30 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 29 wherein the member for enabling a user to press the device toward the vehicle floor comprises a portion of a cross member which extends generally perpendicularly from the housing.

Claim 31 (Previously Added): The device as recited in claim 29 wherein the member for enabling a user to press the device toward the vehicle floor is of a size suitable for receiving the foot of a user to facilitate pressing the device toward the vehicle floor for engagement of the locking mechanism.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A device for locking a ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal of a vehicle the brake or clutch pedal being supported by a pedal shaft, the device comprising:

a base for placement on a floor of the vehicle beneath the brake or clutch pedal and the pedal shaft;

a housing extending from the base;

a rod slidably disposed on said housing, said rod having a first end which engages the underside of said ~~control~~ pedal shaft and a second end for pulling the

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rod and the pedal shaft upward in a decompressed position, and

a locking mechanism positioned on the housing which locks the rod with respect to the housing to retain the pedal shaft in the decompressed position such that the pedal cannot be operably depressed.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A device for locking a ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal of a vehicle, the pedal being supported by a pedal shaft, the device comprising:

a base for placement on a floor of the vehicle beneath the brake or clutch pedal and the pedal shaft;

a housing extending from the base; and

a locking mechanism comprising a rod having a locking pin on one end, the rod being slidably disposed in an opening in the housing between a first position wherein the brake or clutch pedal may be depressed and a second, locked position wherein the locking pin is in engagement with a lower side of the pedal shaft for locking the pedal shaft with respect to the housing such that the brake or clutch pedal cannot be operably depressed, the rod having a handle on the other end, the handle having a dimension which is greater than a dimension of the opening in the housing to limit movement of the rod with respect to the housing when the rod is moved to the first position.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A device for locking a ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal of a vehicle, the brake or clutch pedal being supported by a pedal shaft, the device comprising

a base for placement on a floor of the vehicle beneath the brake or clutch pedal and the pedal shaft;

a housing extending from the base;

a rod slidably disposed on said housing and including a serrated portion, said rod having a first end which engages the underside of said ~~control~~ pedal shaft and a second end for pulling the rod and the pedal shaft upward in a decompressed position; and

a locking mechanism positioned on the housing which locks the rod with respect to the housing to retain the pedal shaft in the decompressed position such that the pedal cannot be operably depressed, the locking mechanism including a lock located on the housing and being in engagement with the serrated portion of the rod for locking the rod in at least the second position.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A device for locking a ~~control~~ brake or clutch pedal of a vehicle, the brake or clutch pedal being supported by a pedal shaft, the device comprising:

a base for placement on a floor of the vehicle beneath the brake or clutch pedal and the pedal shaft;

a housing extending from the base; and

a rod slidably disposed on said housing, said rod having a first end which engages the underside of said control pedal shaft and a second end for pulling the rod and the pedal shaft upward in a decompressed position; and

a locking mechanism positioned on the housing which locks the rod with respect to the housing to retain the pedal shaft in the decompressed position such that the brake or clutch pedal cannot be operably depressed, one of said housing and rod defining two generally parallel members positioned on opposite sides of the pedal shaft when the first end of the rod engages the underside of the pedal shaft.